

# CHILD FATALITY REVIEW REPORT COCONINO AND YAVAPAI COUNTIES

## CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN WHO DIED IN 2005

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Coconino or Yavapai Counties at the time of their deaths. During 2005, there were a combined total of 50 fatalities among children birth through 17 years of age in Coconino (25 deaths) and Yavapai (25 deaths) Counties. Males were disproportionately represented among childhood deaths with 66 percent of the deaths overall. The increased risk for boys was even more pronounced in the 15 through 17 year age group (83 percent), in the 10 through 14 year age group (86 percent), and in the one through four year age group (80 percent). Figure 1 shows the number of boys and girls who died in each age group.

**Figure 1. Age Group and Gender for all Deaths  
Birth through 17 Years, Coconino & Yavapai Counties, 2005**

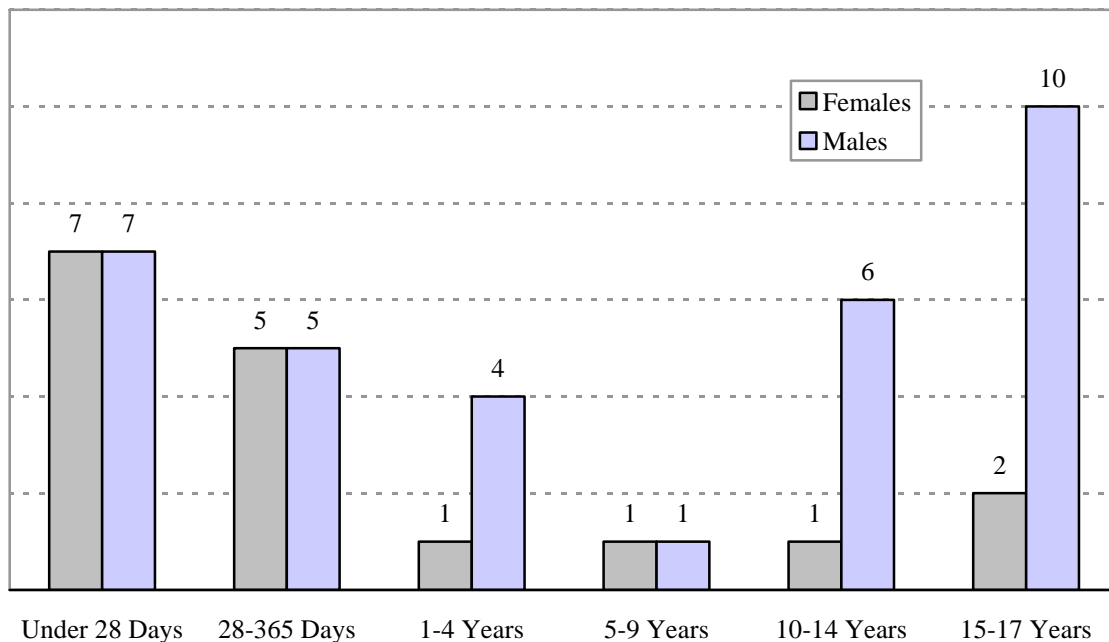
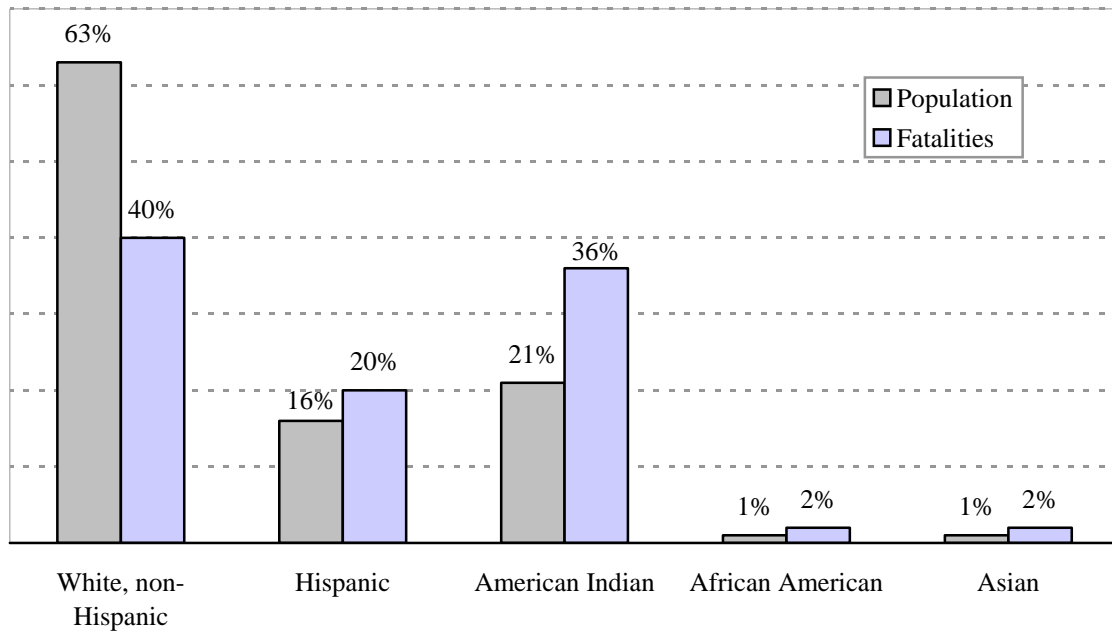


Figure 2 shows the racial and ethnic composition of the children who resided in Coconino and Yavapai Counties compared to fatalities of children who were residents of Coconino and Yavapai Counties. American Indian children were over-represented among fatalities accounting for 36 percent of the childhood fatalities (n=18), yet comprising only 21 percent of the population.

**Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Population Birth through 17 Years Compared to Fatalities, Coconino & Yavapai Counties, 2005**



## CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Cause of death refers to the injury or disease resulting in the death (e.g. motor vehicle crash, pneumonia). Manner of death explains how the death came about. Manners of death are categorized as natural, accident, homicide, suicide, or undetermined. In addition to reviewing medical examiner reports, Child Fatality Review Teams review records from hospitals, emergency departments, law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, and other sources. As a result of this comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach, the team's determination of cause and manner sometimes differs from those recorded on the death certificate.

Natural deaths (e.g. medical conditions, congenital anomalies, prematurity) accounted for 62 percent (n=31) of all fatalities of children who resided in Coconino and Yavapai Counties. Overall, 14 percent of childhood deaths were due to an accident and 86 percent (n=6) of accidental deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes. Suicide accounted for 12 percent of the deaths of children who were residents of Coconino and Yavapai Counties. Table 1 shows a cross-tabulation of the cause and manner of death for children who were residents of Coconino and Yavapai Counties at the time of their deaths.

<b>Table 1. Cause And Manner of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Coconino and Yavapai Counties, 2005</b>						
<b><u>Cause</u></b>	<b><u>Accident</u></b>	<b><u>Homicide</u></b>	<b><u>Natural</u></b>	<b><u>Suicide</u></b>	<b><u>Undetermined</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Medical*</b>			20			20
<b>Prematurity</b>			10			10
<b>MVC</b>	6					6
<b>Hanging</b>				5		5
<b>Blunt Force Trauma</b>		2			1	3
<b>Gunshot Wound</b>	1	1		1		3
<b>Poisoning</b>		1				1
<b>SIDS</b>			1			1
<b>Strangulation</b>					1	1
<b>Total</b>	7	4	31	6	2	50
<b>Percent of Total</b>	14%	8%	62%	12%	4%	
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity						

## **PREVENTABILITY**

During reviews, teams examine the circumstances surrounding the death and identify factors that may have contributed to the death. Part of this review includes a 34-item checklist of contributing factors. After reviewing the contributing factors, the team determines whether the death was preventable.

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if an individual or the community could reasonably have done something that would have changed the circumstances that led to the child's death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 21 (42 percent) of the deaths of children who were residents of Coconino and Yavapai Counties were preventable in 2005.

Existence of a contributing factor did not necessarily result in the determination that a death was preventable. Forty-four percent of all deaths (n=22) had at least one contributing factor noted. Table 2 shows the top contributing factors for the deaths of resident children of Coconino and Yavapai Counties in 2005, and the number of deaths that had the contributing factor noted.

<b>Table 2. Top Contributing Factors to Child Fatalities, Birth through 17 Years, Coconino and Yavapai Counties, 2005</b>	
<b><u>Factor</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Lack of Parenting Skills</b>	10
<b>Drugs / Alcohol</b>	8
<b>Lack of Supervision</b>	7

## COCONINO AND YAVAPAI COUNTY CHILD FATALITIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section will compare the deaths of children who resided in either Coconino or Yavapai Counties to the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. In 2005, 50 children who were residents of Coconino and Yavapai Counties died, and 1,023 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Child Fatality Review Teams found that Coconino and Yavapai Counties had a larger percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Overall, 42 percent of Coconino and Yavapai County deaths were preventable (n=21), compared to 32 percent of deaths in the remaining counties (n=330).

Table 3 provides a comparison of the top causes of death for Coconino and Yavapai Counties compared to the rest of Arizona. Medical causes of death (other than prematurity and SIDS), prematurity, and motor vehicle crashes were the leading causes for Coconino and Yavapai Counties as well as for the remainder of Arizona.

<b>Table 3. Leading Causes of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Coconino and Yavapai Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005</b>			
<b><u>Coconino &amp; Yavapai Counties (n=50)</u></b>		<b><u>Arizona, excluding Coconino &amp; Yavapai Counties (n=1,023)</u></b>	
<b><u>Cause</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b>	<b><u>Cause</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b>
<b>Medical*</b>	40%	<b>Medical*</b>	39%
<b>Prematurity</b>	20%	<b>Prematurity</b>	26%
<b>MVC</b>	12%	<b>MVC</b>	10%
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity			

Table 4 compares the manner of childhood deaths for residents of either Coconino or Yavapai Counties to childhood deaths for residents of the rest of Arizona. The leading manner of death was natural, accounting for over half of childhood deaths for residents of Coconino and Yavapai Counties and for all other Arizona counties, followed by accidental deaths. This comparison reveals that a larger percentage of childhood deaths were due to suicides, homicides and undetermined manner for Coconino and Yavapai Counties than for the remainder of Arizona.

<b>Table 4. Manner of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Coconino and Yavapai Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005</b>			
<b><u>Coconino &amp; Yavapai Counties (n=50)</u></b>		<b><u>Arizona, excluding Coconino &amp; Yavapai Counties (n=1,023)</u></b>	
<b><u>Manner</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b>	<b><u>Manner</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b>
<b>Natural</b>	62%	<b>Natural</b>	69%
<b>Accident</b>	14%	<b>Accident</b>	20%
<b>Suicide</b>	12%	<b>Homicide</b>	5%
<b>Homicide</b>	8%	<b>Undetermined</b>	3%
<b>Undetermined</b>	4%	<b>Suicide</b>	3%

Figure 3 compares the age distribution of childhood deaths of residents of Coconino and Yavapai Counties with residents of the other Arizona counties. Coconino and Yavapai Counties had a higher proportion of childhood deaths of children 10 through 17 years, and a lower proportion of deaths occurring to all other age groups.

**Figure 3. Percent of Fatalities by Age Group, Birth through 17 Years, Coconino & Yavapai Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005**

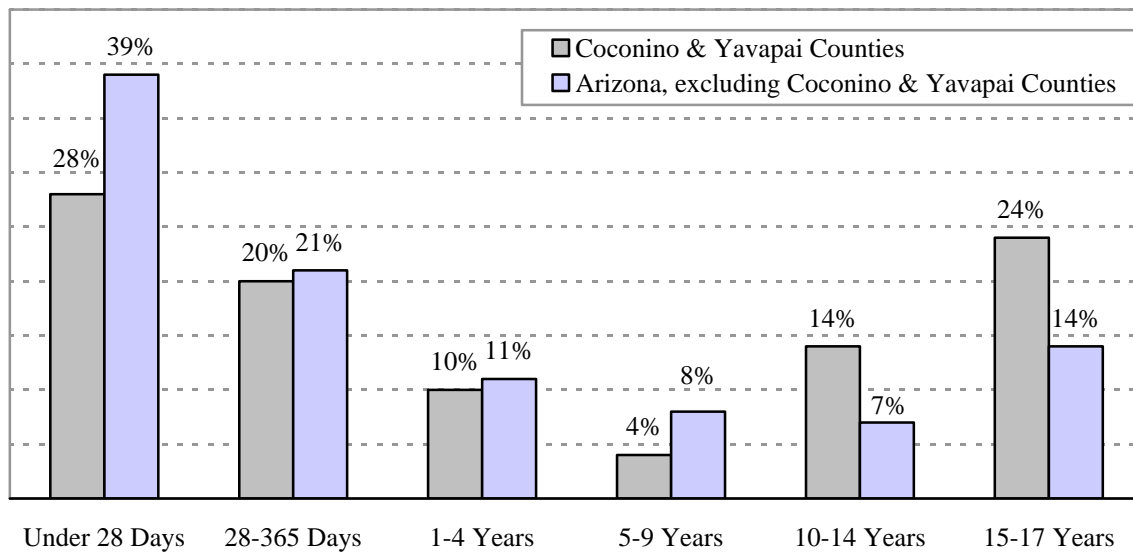


Figure 4 shows a comparison of childhood deaths by gender for residents of Coconino and Yavapai Counties with residents of the other counties in Arizona. Coconino and Yavapai Counties had a higher percentage of male deaths than the remainder of Arizona.

**Figure 4. Percent of Fatalities by Gender, Birth through 17 Years, Coconino & Yavapai Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005**

